

Transit Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, December 13, 2007

1:00 PM

245 Peachtree Center Ave.

Suite 800 – GRTA Board Room

Atlanta, GA 30303

Present Board Members:

Eldrin Bell, *Chair of Clayton County Board of Commissioners/TPB Chair*

Doug Tollett, *President of American Resurgens Management Corp. /TPB Vice Chair*

Beverly Scott, *General Manager of MARTA*

Buzz Ahrens, *Chair of Cherokee County Board of Commissioners*

Charles Bannister, *Chair of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners*

Eddie Freeman, *Chair of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners*

John Eaves, *Chair Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

Laura O'Connor Hodgson, *CEO of Insomnia Consulting*

Sam Olens, *Chair of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners*

Tom Worthan, *Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners*

Walter Deriso, *Chair GRTA Board of Directors*

Absent Board Members:

Jack Smith, *Chair of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners*

Jason Harper, *Chair of Henry County Board of Commissioners*

Mike Evans, *Chair of the State Transportation Board*

Pam Sessions, *CEO of Hedgewood Properties, Inc*

Roy Middlebrooks, *Chair of Rockdale County Board of Commissioners*

Shirley Franklin, *Mayor of the City of Atlanta*

Vernon Jones, *CEO of Dekalb County Board of Commissioners*

Other TPB and Partner Agency Staff Present:

Cheryl King, *TPB Staff Director*

Cain Williamson, *ARC Staff resource to the TPB*

Gloria Gaines, *MARTA/TPB Sr. Staff*

John Crocker, *TPB Planner*

Lisa Lee, *TPB Executive Assistant*

Luz Borrero, *Deputy Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta*

Paul Grether, *MARTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

William Mecke, *GRTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

Quorum Present? Yes

**Meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Eldrin Bell at 1:00PM. After confirming that a quorum of the Board was present the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

► **Public Comment**

- None

► **Approval of Board Agenda for December 13, 2007**

- Agenda was approved.

► **Approval of Board Minutes from November 29, 2007**

- November minutes were approved.

► **Election of Officers** – *Charles Bannister*

- Incumbents Chairman Eldrin Bell and Vice Chair Doug Tollett ran unopposed. They were unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chair.

► **Tentative 2008 TPB Calendar** – *Cheryl King*

- Although TPB funding takes us through June of 2008, the 2008 meeting calendar reflects dates through to the end of 2008 so we ask that you hold these dates.
- The Board moved to adopt the 2008 calendar; **Motion Passed.**

► **Director's Report** – *Cheryl King*

Public Outreach

- The TPB will begin Public Outreach efforts for the vision plan in January 2008.

Governance

- The TPB will begin to set up individual briefings to those Board members who want to be briefed on governance issues.

Charlotte Trip

- Charlotte, NC recently opened their light rail line with great success. The TPB is planning a trip to Charlotte to ride their light rail line and to have the Mayor of Charlotte speak about the benefits of their regional transit system. We are asking that Board members who are interested in attending the trip to please let us know. Representatives are more than welcome to attend on behalf of a Board member.

Concept Map

- Based on comments from Board members, the concept map has been revised. Some felt the map was too stylized in terms of not having enough geographical reference so that people could understand what was being proposed in the plan. Thus, the map has been made more geographically accurate.
- On the map, Chairman Bell asked that we substitute Spalding County for Griffin in an effort to convey a more regional basis and without mentioning a city within a jurisdictional area.
- The concept map will be on the TPB website and a PDF version will be sent to each Board member.

Work Program

- There is a draft work plan document that the TPB has modified to cover us through 2008. We discussed work plan activities for 2008 such as the completion of the regional fare policy, the public involvement campaign, the service coordination issues and the travel demand modeling for concept 3.
- Cheryl King is in the process of developing a draft 2008 budget related to the work program.

Funding

- Since funding for the TPB will only take us through June of 2008, the TPB is in the process of working with ARC and MARTA and has identified 5340 monies from the Federal Transit Administration. These funds are provided specifically for regional planning efforts.
- A grant application will need to be submitted and the funds will have to be matched by 20% from local funding sources. Therefore, the TPB will be asking counties (Board members) to share in the cost of the local match.
- The TPB is asking that MARTA, ARC and GRTA continue their in kind service support through the end of 2008.

Commuter Rail Plan Update

- The TPB, MARTA, GRTA and GDOT have been working with the MACOC to update the ridership and cost information contained in earlier reports done by GDOT on commuter rail for the state and the Atlanta region. The report is complete and outlines the following:
 - ✓ The 7 corridors studied were Athens, Breman, Canton, Gainesville, Macon, Madison and Senoia.
 - ✓ Commuter Rail is feasible in all 7 of the corridors.
 - ✓ The estimate of ridership was a combination of using travel demand models and analysis of what's happening with commuter rail in peer cities with existing commuter rail services.
 - ✓ The proposed Atlanta commuter rail lines would enjoy a similar level of success as has happened in our peer cities.
 - ✓ The two most important trends are a tremendous growth in population and in freight railroad traffic.
 - ✓ Three points to consider if contemplating the implementation of commuter rail are demand, available railroad corridors and funding.
- Essentially, the report reaffirms that commuter rail is obtainable and a viable means for connecting Georgia communities but it will not be cheap. It is an investment that will pay off over time.
- The TPB will forward the full report to each Board member.
- The TPB will be using the results of this study as input to the concept plan.

► **Board Introduced Topics**

- Gloria Gaines will be leaving MARTA at the end 2007. Dr. Beverly Scott, MARTA General Manager, recognized Gloria Gaines for her dedicated service to MARTA, the TPB and the Atlanta region.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

**Minutes submitted by Executive Assistant, Lisa Lee

ADOPTED this 13th day of December, 2007:

Chairman

Date

Executive Assistant